UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE.

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FOLDING CHAIR.

SPECIFICATION forming part of Letters Patent No. 244,216, dated July 12, 1881.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, JOSEPH BEVERLEY FENBY, of Yardley, in the county of Worcester, England, have invented certain new and useful Improvements in Camp or Folding Chairs, of which the following is a specification.

My invention consists, principally, of the improvements hereinafter described in camp or folding chairs, by which improvements a folding seat of great stability and great extent, both of seat and base, is obtained, combined with great portability. When the separable flexible top of the seat is removed the folding parts may be closed upon one another, and when so folded the said parts fit very compactly together and have nearly the figure of a rectangular bar of wood.

I construct a camp or folding chair according to my invention in the following manner:

The folding parts of the chair consist of paired bars, the bars of each pair crossing each other, and being connected together where they cross by a pin or center, on which they turn. The tops and bottoms of the bars of each pair are connected, respectively, with the tops and bottoms of the bars of the adjacent pairs, so that the whole of the bars are combined together—the bars of each pair by the joint at their crossings, and the several pairs with each other at their tops and bottoms. As the bars of one side of the seat are in a plane at right angles to that in which the bars of the adjoining side are situated, the tops and bottoms of the bars require to be connected by means of metallic angle-caps or angle-pieces consisting, essentially, of a metallic plate, one half of which is situated at right angles to the other half. To these angle caps or pieces, which are similar both at top and bottom, the ends of the bars are jointed by pins, on which they turn. The bars of one pair are thus connected to the bars of the next pair at their tops and bottoms, and at the same time are capable of motion in planes at right angles to one another. By this arrangement of the bars a folding frame is produced capable of opening to any desired angle, so as to give a top and base of considerable area, the four sides being situated in vertical planes. By means of a flexible top or webbing placed upon the summit of the folding frame, and extending downward to the tops of the lower front bars, the seat or camp-chair is completed, the said flexible top or webbing being furnished with angle-caps, in which the summits of the jointed bars engage.

Four of the pieces forming the above-described folding frame-work are made of an additional length, so as to serve as a support for the back of the sitter, and may be provided with a fixed or adjustable canopy.

I will now proceed to describe, with reference to the accompanying drawings, the manner in which my invention may be carried out.

Figure 1 represents, in perspective, a camp or folding chair expanded for use, constructed according to my invention. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the chair-frame in its folded condition. Fig. 3 is an elevation of said frame in its folded condition, viewed from the front. Fig. 4 represents the bars of which the framing of the chair is composed.

The folding parts of the chair consist of pairs of bars marked, respectively, *a d*, *b e*, *c g*, and *f h*, the bars of each pair crossing each other and being connected together where they cross by a pin or center, (marked *i*.) The four bars, *a f* and *c g*, are lengthened, as represented, so as to serve as a support for the back of the sitter, and the upper halves, d^2 h^2, of the bars *d h*, which are jointed to the tops of the bars *b* and *e*, respectively, are jointed to the middle of the bars *a* and *f* by independent joints at i^2 i^2, so that when the several pairs of bars of the frame are expanded for use the said upper halves, d^2 h^2, may be placed horizontally and made to constitute the sides of the seat of the chair, as seen in Fig. 1. The flexible top or webbing (marked *m*) is, in this case, made of a length suitable for being engaged at its angles with the tops of the bars *c g* and *a f*, constituting the back of the chair, and with the tops of the bars d^2 and *e* and *b* and h^2, constituting the front of the frame of the chair. In order to limit the expansion of the bars of the chair stay-lines *n n* are used at the front and back of the chair, as represented.

Fig. 5 represents in front and side elevation